**A** **CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

TO EXPRESS THE HEARTFELT GRATITUDE OF THE MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY FOR THE PUBLIC SERVICE OF ANNE CUSHMAN, KNOWING THAT HER CAREER‑LONG SERVICE TO THIS STATE HAS MADE A MEANINGFUL AND ENDURING CONTRIBUTION TO THE WELFARE AND WELL‑BEING OF ITS PEOPLE, AND ON THE OCCASION OF HER RETIREMENT WISH FOR HER YEARS OF GOOD HEALTH AND GOOD FORTUNE.

Whereas, the members of the General Assembly note that Anne Cushman, long‑time attorney in the South Carolina Legislative Council, is retiring at the end of the 2014 legislative session; and

Whereas, Anne, a Florida native who received her B.A. from East Carolina University, a master of social work from the University of South Carolina in 1977, and a J.D. from the University of South Carolina School of Law in 1981, has enjoyed a career in public service that has seen her active as a social worker, as a staff stalwart at the Joint Legislative Committee on Children, as research director for the Senate Medical Affairs Committee, and since 1990, as counsel in the South Carolina Legislative Council; and

Whereas, with her educational background and extraordinary empathy and work ethic, she has labored in every stage of her career in public service, in promoting and protecting the welfare of those who are least able to care for themselves‑‑children, seniors, the medically underserved, and those among us who labor with physical, emotional, and developmental disabilities; and

Whereas the recodification of the South Carolina Children’s Code, enacted by the General Assembly in 2008, is a representation of her legal skills, legislative drafting acumen, and commitment to the underlying purposes that led to the original enactment of the South Carolina Children’s Code in 1981, while Anne worked for the Joint Legislative Committee on Children. The thorough-going recodification and revision of the Code in 2008, when it gained status as a stand‑alone Title 63 of the Code of Laws of South Carolina, 1976, is as an enduring legacy of her abilities and profound dedication to public service; and

Whereas, having come to the part of this resolution where the paean to Anne’s public service is done, we can begin to speak about Anne Cushman the person, mother, grandmother, wife, bridge player, shopper, collector, traveler, reader, volunteer, and lover of all people and things unusual; and

Whereas, she dotes on her daughter Liz Wiggers and her grandsons Jack and Elliot, and serves dutifully as the mother‑in‑law of son‑in‑law Reverend Jeff Wiggers. She is married to Jay Bender of Columbia, a lawyer, professor, and bon vivant, an incurable romantic who in public, and likely in private, speaks to and refers to Anne as “Cushman”; and

Whereas, she is an inveterate traveler, having visited all of the fifty states and traveled cross‑country by motorcycle and later by VW bus, complete with tie dye and beads; and

Whereas, in addition, she has traveled to more than twenty countries, on one occasion climbing Kenya’s Mt. Kilimanjaro, and all who know her ability to sniff out cheap air fares remind themselves not to stand between Anne and her computer when Travelocity is spitting out the latest deals; and

Whereas, an animal lover and rescuer extraordinaire, she is always tending to her rescue dogs and rescue cats who live to great age while Anne frets over their decrepitude. Anne had to rearrange the schedule for painting her house trim because Louie, a “bachelor bat”, had taken up residence in a window sill and could not be disturbed. While attempting to rescue an injured pigeon in the Pendleton Street garage entrance, she was nearly run over by Marty McGee, her Legislative Council colleague who was running late on her commute. Anne was unhurt, but sadly, reports are that the pigeon did not survive; and

Whereas, she is a fiercely competitive bridge player who hones her skills by playing over the Internet, a voracious and eclectic reader, and a recreational shopper who keeps Dollar Stores and thrift shops in business and from which she maintains a large stash, or should we say, horde, of her purchases; and

Whereas, Anne volunteers her time and talents to a host of people and causes needing her assistance and over the years has acted as a one‑woman agency living daily the Golden Rule; and

Whereas, all who have the privilege of knowing Anne understand that she is a singular personality‑‑feisty, unfailingly thoughtful, unbelievably kind, and a role model of the best attributes of the human spirit. Furthermore, her friends know well that when Anne was born, that particular arrangement of DNA was temporarily retired, as the Creator understood that the world could not handle more than one Anne Cushman persona at a time. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives, the Senate concurring:

That the members of the General Assembly, by this resolution, express their heartfelt gratitude for the public service of Anne Cushman, knowing that her career‑long service to this State has made a meaningful and enduring contribution to the welfare and well‑being of its people, and on the occasion of her retirement wish for her years of good health and good fortune

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Anne Cushman.

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